

MINUTES OF THE RECYCLING ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY, REGULAR MEETING

Held at Southwest Solid Waste Authority offices, 318 Ridge Road, Silver City, NM; March 18, 2010.

(Minutes prepared by Richard Mahler)

Present: Terry Timme (Chair), Diana Temple (SWSWA), C.J. Law (SWSWA), Ramon Arroyo (SWSWA), Alan Archer, Richard Mahler, Ann Alexander, Chuck Fuller, Ron Groves, Deanna Mooney, and two public guests [unidentified]. **Absent:**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Terry at 4:02 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting as submitted was by acclamation.

Public Input

Two public members were present and asked questions about the new "single stream" recycling system and the forthcoming e-waste collection event.

Report from SWSWA

C.J. Law

C.J. Law general manager said SWSWA had reached a final fiscal agreement with Grant County for purchase of a self-dumping trailer to haul recyclables from the landfill to the Friedman processing center in El Paso. The Town of Silver City will own the truck itself. He said the first load had left earlier in the day with nearly 7000 pounds of recyclables. He said the truck is expected to make two round-trips once a week, depending on the volume of material coming into SWSWA. Friedman is charging \$14 per ton for accepting the recyclables. C.J. said the landfill is trying to get rid of all baled recyclable materials. He also expects a 20 to 30 percent increase in recycling volume as a result of the new single-stream approach. A year ago, the rate for our area was 3 percent of materials diverted to recycling.

C.J. reiterated that all recyclables, except for glass, are now being trucked, unsorted, to El Paso for sorting and shipment to vendors. Curbside pick-up will continue, although participants are asked to separate glass and leave the rest of their recyclables co-mingled. He reviewed the Friedman list of acceptable items, which now includes chipboard and pizza boxes, but no plastics except for #1 and #2 items that have a handle or are shaped like a bottle. In other words, no yogurt containers, food containers, and so on. All paper is now being collected, including junk mail, envelopes with glassine windows, and colored paper. C.J. said his eventual goal is to have SWSWA pick up all curbside recycling the way

it currently picks up trash, using bins that can be lifted directly and dumped into a recycling truck.

C.J. discussed the problem of people placing trash in recycling bins. Homeowners who do so are now being given "a green ticket" warning that their bin will be removed if the problem continues. With the city's permission, C.J. said roll-off recycling bins in Silver City had been removed because of contamination with trash and potentially dangerous materials. He said unless there is a huge public outcry, they will not be replaced. If replaced, they will be placed in a "non-high traffic area." Recycling roll-offs will remain at the transfer stations.

C.J. also said SWSWA had received a grant from the NM Recycling Coalition to pay for purchase of more than 330 curbside recycling bins, which still need to be transported from Los Lunas.

Asked about recycling options for apartments, C.J. said "we can figure something out" and said SWSWA is willing to work with people who have special needs in order to get their recycling picked up.

C.J. also mentioned that SWSWA expects to receive a \$400,000 grant to build another new cell for the landfill. He said SWSWA also hopes to apply, in partnership with other area landfill, for funds to buy a portable tire shredder. The shredded tires could then be used for cover fill.

Ramon Arroyo

Ramon echoed C.J.'s remarks about the need for residents to separate glass for curbside pickup. Ramon said 35 bales of plastic were recently picked up, at about a half-ton per bale. He mentioned that prices for some recyclables is up slightly but that non-aluminum metal cans are difficult to get rid of.

New Business

New Committee Members

Ron Groves and Chuck Fuller were welcomed to the committee, following their appointment by the mayor. They replace Joseph Schindler and George Llewellyn, who were thanked for their service.

Earth Day e-waste event

The committee discussed at some length details related to the scheduling of a combination recyclables and e-waste collection event on Saturday, April 24, in conjunction with Earth Day, which will again be a community-wide celebration focusing on Penny Park. Activities are scheduled from 10 am to 2 pm.

Terry reported that Ramon had agreed to provide a collection truck for regular recyclables and that Stone-McGee CPA's had agreed to allow use of its parking lot, next to Penny Park. Terry also reported that SWSWA had agreed to act as a fiscal agent for the e-waste event so that checks could be processed for any related donations and costs. It was agreed that we will ask residents to pay the vendor-assessed \$10 disposal fee for old-style CRTs and TVs. The

feeling was that people should not be turned away if they cannot pay this fee.

Richard and Terry summarized their conversations with representatives of two e-waste recycling companies in Phoenix and two in Albuquerque. They reached a decision to go with Albuquerque Recycling, based on an agreeable written estimate.

Richard reported on his communications with Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold. Richard Peterson, representing Freeport, has secured a \$5000 donation and employee volunteers to help make our collection event a success. Due to weight restrictions, Freeport and other large institutions or businesses will not be able to donate more than 100 kilograms of e-waste to our event.

Richard circulated the draft of a display ad prepared for publication in the April issue of DESERT EXPOSURE, promoting the e-waste collection event. Several suggestions were made for improvements. Other advertising and signage possibilities were discussed. Several committee members agreed to volunteer at the April 24 event, but specific assignments were postponed until the April meeting.

Next meeting

The next meeting is slated for Thursday, April 22, at 3 p.m. at the SWSWA conference room.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm.